

Foster Gulch Mine  
1 mile southwest of the town of Bearcreek  
Red Lodge Vicinity  
Carbon County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-31

HAER  
MONT,  
5 - RELO.V,  
1 -

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
THE FOSTER GULCH COAL MINE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The Foster Gulch is located on the south side of Bear Creek about one mile southwest of the town of Bearcreek and about three miles southeast of Red Lodge in Carbon County, Montana. The site is found in sections 7 and 8, T8S, R21E (see Figure 1).

Quad: Red Lodge East, Mont. - 1969

UTM: A 12/4999700/644400  
B 12/5001300/643000

Date of Construction: c. 1907 to 1953

Present Owner: James Slack  
Red Lodge, Montana

Present Use: Abandoned.

Significance: The Foster Gulch mines were part of the Montana Coal and Iron Company operations. The underground workings were connected to the Smith No. 3 mine where 74 men died in Montana's worst coal mine disaster in 1943. The company shifted its operations to the Foster Gulch mines following the disaster but tragedy continued to haunt the company when two miners were killed in a rock fall during the summer of 1943. The mines continued to operate until 1953. (See MT-32 for additional information.)

Historian: Paul Anderson, GCM Services, Inc., Butte, Montana, December 1986.